

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 AID-20

EB-11 SWF-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FRB-02 CU-04 L-03 CIAE-00

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R 221115Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9041

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ABIDJAN 5022

DEPT PASS USDA, USDOC, EXIM, OPIC, AID

LAGOS FOR LOGAN

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, EGEN, IV

SUBJ: GOIC REQUEST FOR AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE; MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE FOLLOW UP

REFS: A. STATE 114649; B. STATE 110149; C. ABIDJAN 4075

1. SUMMARY: GOIC MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SAWADOGO IS PRESSING
FORWARD RAPIDLY WITH PROGRAM TO INTRODUCE SOYBEAN CULTIVATION
IN IVORY COAST AND RE-ORIENT IVORIAN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING.
DURING PERIOD JUNE 3-15 FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS VISITED IVORY
COAST AT PERSONAL INVITATION OF MINISTER SAWADOGO:

W.D. BUDDEMEIER, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, H.D. BUNCH,
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY, W.R. FISCHER, SOYPRO INTERNA-
TIONAL INC., W.R. LOGAN, USDA. ALL RECEIVED RED CARPET
TREATMENT, VISITED PROPOSED SOYBEAN GROWING AREAS AND MET
EXTENSIVELY WITH GOIC OFFICIALS AT HIGHEST LEVEL. UNANIMOUS
CONCLUSION WAS THAT GOIC UNAWARE OF FULL RANGE OF TECHNICAL
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DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN SOYBEAN GROWING AND PROCESSING AND

RECOMMENDED THAT GOIC ADOPT A "CAUTIOUS" APPROACH. NO FIRM CONCLUSIONS REACHED REGARDING BEST APPROACH TO AGRICULTURAL TRAINING QUESTION.

2. BUDDEMEIER, FISCHER, BUNCH VISIT. EACH WAS RECRUITED INDIVIDUALLY AND DURING JOINT TOUR OF IVORY COAST LOOKED AT POSSIBLE AREAS FOR SOYBEAN CULTIVATION, CORN GROWING REGIONS, RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES. THEIR JOINT REPORT EMPHASIZES PROBLEMS AND ACTIONS OF IMMEDIATE URGENCY FOR GAINING MAXIMUM INFORMATION ABOUT SOYBEAN PRODUCTION AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIAL SEED MULTIPLICATION DURING CURRENT GROWING SEASON. IN ADDITION, EACH TEAM MEMBER WILL PREPARE INDIVIDUAL REPORT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS INSTITUTION OR FIRM. THEIR PRELIMINARY REPORT RECOMMENDS:

A. A SERIES OF SMALL PLOT VARIETAL SOYBEAN TRIALS BEGINNING IN 1974 AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS UNDER OPTIMUM CULTURAL CONDITIONS AND PRACTICES.

B. SOME PRELIMINARY PLANTING AND WORK TOWARD LONG TERM INTENSIVE SOYBEAN REARCH PROGRAM IN IVORY COAST AND TOWARD TRAINING OF LOCAL SCIENTISTS IN THE VARIOUS DISCIPLINES NEEDED FOR A SUCCESSFUL ON-GOING RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.

C. SMALL COMMERCIAL SCALE REPRODUCTION OF SEED IN SEVEN LOCATIONS IN 1974 UNDER A VARIETY OF CULTURAL CONDITIONS TO GAIN INFORMATION ON A WORKABLE SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC SOYBEAN PRODUCTION AND PROVIDE AS MUCH SEED AS POSSIBLE FOR FUTURE REPRODUCTION.

D. UNIVERSITIES OF ILLINOIS AND MISSISSIPPI STATE SOYBEAN SPECIALISTS UNDER THEIR ON-GOING USAID SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS PROPOSE TO ASSIST IVORY COAST EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH PERSONNEL TO CARRY OUT A AND B ABOVE.

E. UNIVERSITIES ALSO HOPE TO PROVIDE: GUIDELINES ON VARIED PRACTICES TO BE EMPLOYED TO GAIN THE MOST POSSIBLE INFORMATION FROM THE SMALL SCALE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION; TECHNICIANS TO MONITOR THIS PRODUCTION, TO HELP ANALYZE AND EVALUATE RESULTS, AND HELP PROJECT ON-GOING COMMERCIAL SCALE SYSTEMS TRIALS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FUTURE; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SEED HARVESTK V, PROCESSING AND STORAGE OF SOYBEAN SEEDS, AND ASSISTANCE AND PLANNING TOWARD A LONG-RANGE SEED PRODUCTION SYSTEM.

F. FISHER PROPOSED DETAILED PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FIELD MANAGE-
MENT AND FULL BACK-UP SUPPORT FOR 1974 SOYBEAN PROGRAM.
FOR LONGER TERM, SOYPRO PROPOSES TO DESIGN AND SUPPLY A
DETAILED ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF GOIC PROGRAM TO

DEVELOP A SOUND AND PROFITABLE COMMERCIAL SYSTEM OF SOYBEAN AND CORN PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, FEEDING AND SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF END PRODUCTS IN IVORY COAST, AFRICAN REGIONAL AND WORLD MARKETS. SOYPRO STANDS READY TO IMPLEMENT ANY OR ALL OF PROJECT PLANS WITH PLANT DESIGNS, PLANT CONSTRUCTION AN OPERATION, MARKETING PROGRAMS AND PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AS GOIC MAY DESIRE.

3. LOGAN VISIT: MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO SURVEY CURRENT OPERATION, PROCEDURES AND FINANCING OF GOIC AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTES IN ORDER TO ASSESS MOST APPROPRIATE METHOD FOR USG TO ASSIST GOIC IN ITS ENDEAVORS TO RE-ORIENT AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SYSTEM AWAY FROM FRENCH MODEL AND TOWARD AMERICAN MODEL. LOGAN CONCLUDED THAT PRESENT AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAM IS "WEAK" AND THAT GOIC APPEARS TO LACK AWARENESS OF ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF PROJECTS THEY ENVISAGE UNDERTAKING. ALTHOUGH UNABLE AT END OF VISIT TO MEET WITH SAWADOGO, LOGAN PLANNED TO REPORT TO MINISTER THAT:

A. HE WOULD SEEK TO OBTAIN USDA APPROVAL TO HOLD IN IVORY COAST THE USDA "CAPITAL PROJECT SEMINAR" DURING FALL 1974.

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 AID-20

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B. THE PROPOSAL TO SEND A GROUP OF IVORIANS TO THE CYMMIT IN MEXICO WAS NOT SOUND SINCE TRAINING WOULD BE IN SPANISH.

C. PRACTICAL TRAINING IN A VARIETY OF AGRICULTURAL DISCIPLINES WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AN EXTENSIVE DEGREE PROGRAM FOR IVORIANS SENT TO THE U.S.

D. THE GOIC SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL RESEARCH CENTERS (PRIMARILY FRENCH CONTROLLED AND STAFFED) TO UNDERTAKE AND/OR ACCELERATE THEIR TRAINING OF IVORIAN STUDENTS. ENSA (ECOLE NATIONALE SUPERIEURE AGRONOMIQUE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE) CANNOT AFFORD TO SEND TEN PEOPLE AT A TIME TO U.S. FOR TRAINING AS PROPOSED BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WITHOUT GUTTING ON-GOING ENSA TEACHING PROGRAM. FURTHER, THERE WOULD BE RESISTANCE BY FRENCH-TRAINED IVORIANS TO US-TRAINED PROFESSIONALS UPON THEIR RETURN.
E. LOGAN ALSO HAD SOME DOUBT OF CAPABILITY SOYPRO TO CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROPOSED.

4. COMMENTS:
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A. EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THAT MINISTER SAWADOGO IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO INTRODUCE SOYBEAN CULTIVATION IN IVORY COAST. ALTHOUGH SAWADOGO LIKELY BELIEVES THAT 500,000 METRIC TONS SOYBEAN PRODUCTION TARGET IS UNREALISTIC, HE HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO PROCEED RAPIDLY WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM, WITNESS FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES REPORTED ABOVE. EMBASSY BELIEVES MINISTER SAWADOGO HAS RECEIVED SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION FROM U.S. EXPERTS TO CONVINCE PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY THAT "CRASH" PROGRAM IS UNWISE IN VIEW OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, PAUCITY OF DATA BASE, LACK OF NECESSARY SKILLED MANPOWER AND APPROPRIATE MACHINERY. IF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENTS 1974 TRIAL PROGRAM WITH APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS PROPOSED AND FOLLOWS UP EARLY NEXT YEAR WITH EXTENSIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY, GOIC AND USG WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION THAN AT PRESENT TO ASSESS WHAT IVORY COAST PROSPECTS ARE FOR SOYBEAN PRODUCTION AND, ACCORDINGLY, LEVEL AND TYPE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE LIKELY TO BE NEEDED/REQUESTED. (THE EMBASSY WILL POUCH THE DEPT AND USDA ((LOGAN)) COPIES OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY VISITORS TO MINAG).

B. SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IS JUST ONE OF POSSIBILITIES GOIC IS CONSIDERING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN REGION OF IVORY COAST. RECENTLY TWO COMMITTEES WERE CREATED (ONE FOR REGION OF KORHOGO, THE OTHER FOR REGION OF ODIENNE') TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM FOR ACCELERATING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH. A NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, HAVE CONTACTED U.S. PRIVATE FIRMS OR INSTITUTIONS (AND, WE SUSPECT, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS,

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES). ALSO, MINISTER OF PLAN DIAWARA HAS INVITED DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES CORPORATION (D & R) TO DRAW UP, INTER ALIA, A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH. TWO D & R REPS ARE CURRENTLY ON THE STANDARD SWING THROUGH THE NORTH. THUS, IT APPEARS THAT AT LEAST AT PRESENT MINISTRIES AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS ARE GOING OFF IN VARIOUS DIRECTIONS IN EFFORT TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH. VIA THIS "SHOTGUN" APPROACH, GOIC RUNS RISK THAT THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND ATTENDANT WASTE OF FUNDS. GOIC CERTAINLY WISHES TO AVOID THIS AND WILL, WE BELIEVE, TIGHTEN UP COORDINATION. IN THIS REGARD, EMBASSY ALSO CAN PLAY USEFUL ROLE BY CONTINUING TO URGE THAT AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS "PERSONALLY" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVITED TO ASSIST IVORY COAST TO DEVELOP THE NORTHERN REGION CONFER WITH EMBASSY STAFF SO THAT WE MAY STAY ABREAST OF "WHO'S ON FIRST" AND PLAY A COORDINATING ROLE AT THIS END VIS-A-VIS U.S. PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL INPUTS. AT THE SAME TIME, CLOSE COORDINATION AMONG U.S. AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON WILL BE REQUIRED, PREFERABLY WITHIN OFFICE TAKING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY AMONG AGENCIES.

C. REGARDING RE-ORIENTATION OF GOIC AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, WE BELIEVE THE GOIC AND USG NEED TO GIVE CONSIDERABLE MORE THOUGHT ABOUT HOW BEST TO APPROACH THIS TOPIC. ONE ITEM WHICH SURFACED DURING IN-HOUSE CONVERSATIONS WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF A UNIVERSITY CONTRACT, WHEREBY A U.S. UNIVERSITY WOULD BE ENGAGED TO REVAMP THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM. WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THIS BEFORE SUBMITTING ITS OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO SAWADOGO'S REQUEST.
SMITH

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